

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
ADVANCED COUNSELOR**

I. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A school counselor's advanced certificate, valid for a period of ten (10) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

- A.** Completion of the requirements under the initial Elementary or Secondary Counselor's Certificate;
- B.** Recommendation for certification from the designated official of the college or university with an approved program;
- C.** Completion of a planned program of at least thirty (30) semester hours of approved graduate credit culminating in a specialist or doctoral degree with a major emphasis in guidance and counseling from a Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved program that includes the following:
 - 1.** Successfully completed one (1) course in each of the following areas:
 - a.** Advanced Theories and Techniques of Counseling;
 - b.** Advanced Practicum;
 - c.** Practicum in Group Counseling;
 - d.** Advanced Educational and Psychological Assessment; and
 - e.** Advanced Research and Statistics; and
 - 2.** Knowledge and/or competency in each of the following areas:
 - a.** Intervention skills to provide preventive and remedial activities for growth and development of students;
 - b.** Systems theory relating to family, school, and community;
 - c.** Facilities, equipment, funding for guidance programs; and
 - d.** Legal rights and laws relating to guidance programs; and
- D.** Must achieve a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score on the assessments designated by the State Board of Education, not to include the principles of learning and teaching.

II. RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE:

The school counselor advanced certificate may be renewed for ten (10) years by persons meeting the following requirements:

- A.** Written request for renewal on the certificate of license to teach;
- B.** Verification of two (2) years experience in school counseling during the previous ten (10) years;
- C.** Documentation of attendance at three (3) professional workshops/seminars totaling fifteen (15) clock hours and appropriate for school counselors; and
- D.** Submission of transcripts showing a minimum of six (6) semester hours of graduate credit appropriate for elementary counselors; or verification of ninety (90) clock hours of professional workshops/in-services appropriate for school counselors.

Persons who do not meet the above requirements for renewal of their certificate shall complete graduate courses and/or professional development activities equivalent to eight (8) semester hours of graduate credit.

In-service credit of fifteen (15) clock hours equals one (1) graduate semester hour of credit. Ninety (90) clock hours equals six (6) semester hours; one hundred twenty (120) clock hours equals eight (8) semester hours.

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